

## nebraskan sports

## Huskies fall to Washington; 75-63

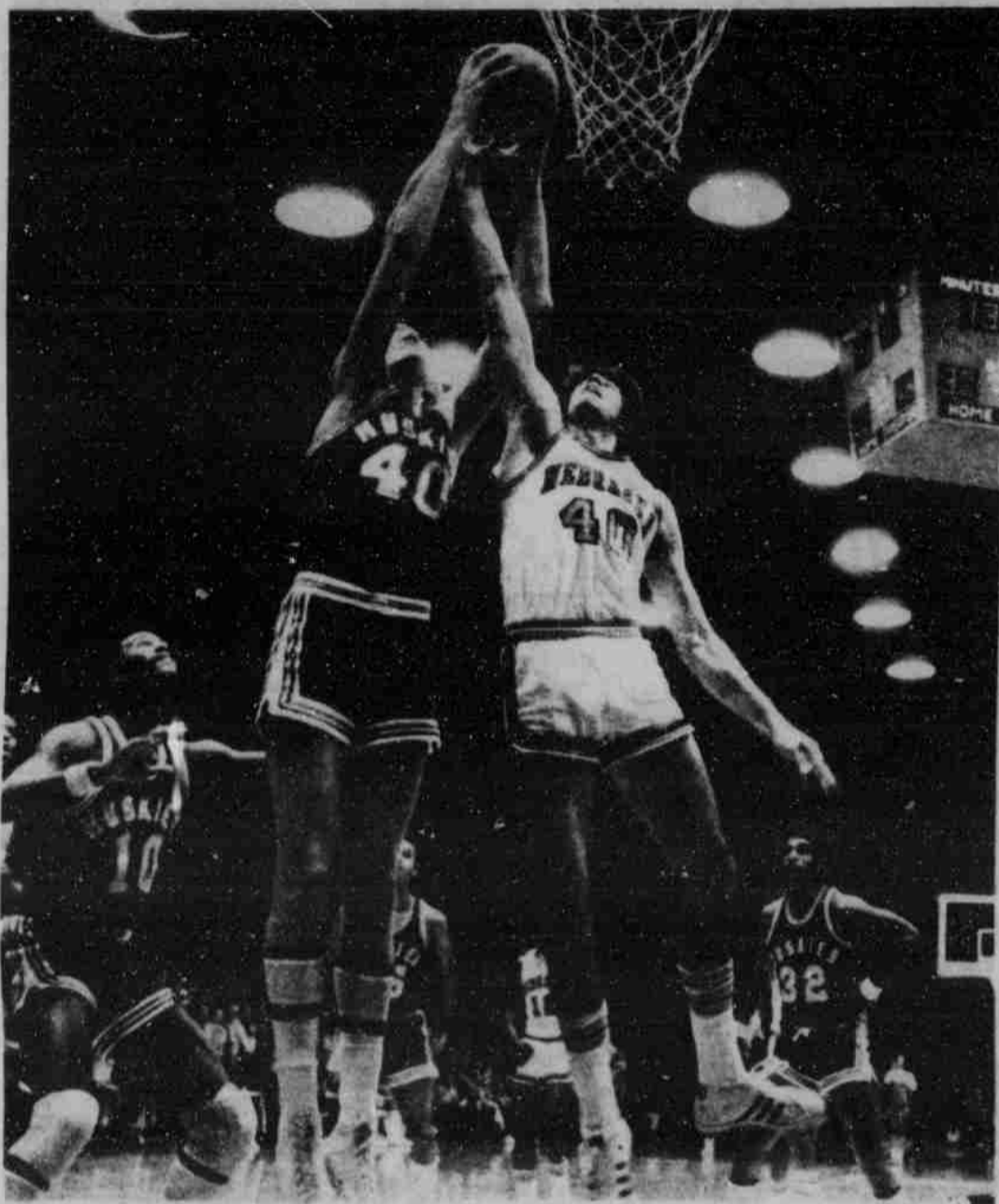


Photo by Ted Kirk

UNL basketball center Larry Cox (40) vainly tries to tip the ball away from a taller Washington opponent during the Huskers 75-63 loss Saturday night. Cox scored six points and had three rebounds.

## 'Timing off' as spikers head into national meet

After a week vacation over Thanksgiving, the UNL women's volleyball team was a "little off in their timing," Coach Pat Sullivan said.

The volleyball team, preparing for the national tournament which begins Wednesday, worked on straight defense and offense last week, Sullivan said.

Sophomore Nancy Hamilton sprained an ankle Tuesday in practice and could not scrimmage all week. Teammate Sue Luedtke also hurt an ankle in practice. Both will be ready to play at nationals, according to Sullivan.

"Because of injuries, the squad did not scrimmage in practice since we didn't have full teams," Sullivan said.

"The girls just worked hard on their positions and in combinations with the people they usually play next to," she said. "We didn't try to do anything new."

The national tournament in Princeton, N.J., will include 24 teams—the top two teams in each of the eight regions and eight at-large teams, Sullivan said.

"The at-large teams probably will be a couple from California, a couple from Texas, the University of Hawaii, and I don't know who else," she said.

At-large teams are selected from bids, based on records and their competition, she added. UNL was second in the Region 6 tourney and Southwest Missouri State was first.

Teams are divided into four pools (divisions) in the nationals.

UNL will leave at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday for Newark, N.J. and drive from there to Princeton. Twelve girls, the coach, a trainer, a manager, Athletic Director Aleen Swofford and Sports Information Director Jay Davis will attend.

After nationals are over, Sullivan said she will work more on recruiting, although she already has talked to a few girls.

"I want to look at films taken at the state volleyball tournament," she said. "I know there are quite a few good players. One problem will be that George Nicodemus (women's basketball coach) and I will be going after some of the same girls. There's no way a girl can compete in both sports—they just overlap too much."

### Placed fourth last year

## Chess Club aims for collegiate title

Many of the UNL Chess Club's opponents at last year's Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Championships probably didn't take the four-man Nebraska team seriously.

After all, Nebraskans are better known for their strategy on the football field than on a chessboard.

But the UNL team proved the football factory notion isn't all inclusive by finishing fourth behind the Universities of Toronto, Harvard and Chicago.

All four team members return for this year's tournament, Dec. 26 through 30, in Columbus, Ohio. They also may have the services of John Watson, a former high school national champion and now a chess

By Jim Hunt

Heap the praise on the Washington Huskies seemed to be the sentiments of UNL basketball players after the Huskies rolled to a 75-63 victory over the Huskers Saturday before 7,500 fans at the Coliseum.

"Washington is an awfully good team," said UNL head coach Joe Cipriano. "I wouldn't want to play them for a living."

Cipriano said Washington's win over Kansas last year exemplified the Huskies' strength. Kansas later ran away with the Big 8 conference crown. The Huskies also defeated eventual NCAA champion UCLA 103-81 in Seattle last season.

### Second to Indiana

"Except for Indiana, they are probably the best team we played since I have been here," said junior forward Rickey Harris. (The Huskers lost to the Hoosiers 97-60 last year in the Indiana Classic.)

Washington moved to a 35-28 halftime lead paced by 7 ft. center James Edwards. Edwards netted 13 of his game-high 18 points in the first half. The Huskies shot 51 per cent from the field compared to UNL's 43 per cent in the first half.

Washington stretched the lead to 20 points (60-40) with 8:25 remaining in game.

Then the Huskers started a comeback. Led by freshman Carl McPipe and Junior Bob Siegel, Nebraska whittled away Washington's lead, moving within seven points at 59-66 with 3:24 to play.

### No closer

However, that's as close as the Huskers could get. After each team scored another

basket, the Huskies reeled off six straight points to kill all Husker hopes.

"We just started too late in our comeback," Siegel said. "But if we were playing good we shouldn't have needed to even start a comeback."

Siegel said the Huskers still must play better on defense. "Since UNL isn't a big team we have to play together to win, and that means on defense," he said.

The Huskies, with their front line of Edwards, 6 ft. 11 in. Lars Hansen and 6 ft. 7 in. Kim Stewart took rebounding honors with 38. The Huskers pulled down 23 rebounds and were led by Harris, who grabbed a game-high of 11.

Cipriano called Harris' effort his best of the season. Harris came off the bench to contribute nine points and four assists.

### Fort led

Offensively the Huskers were led by all-Big 8 guard Jerry Fort, who netted 17 points; Siegel with 16 points and McPipe with nine.

Fort was taken out in the game's closing minutes for defensive reasons, Cipriano said.

"He was hurting our defense," he said. "We just didn't get any pressure on him."

Senior guard Steve Willis said the team still is having trouble putting it together for 40 minutes, but added that they are coming closer. He attributes much of the improvement to better play by the sixth, seventh and eighth men (the first three subs).

The Huskers, now 1-3, will face St. Mary's of Moraga, Calif. Wednesday in the Coliseum.

## Women cagers loosen up in 'best game' this season

By Susie Reitz

The UNL women's basketball team's 58-46 win over Tarkio (Mo.) Saturday was "by far the best game we've played this year," said UNL coach George Nicodemus.

"The girls were good on offense, but were better on defense," he said. "They were loosening up and talking to each other for the first time this season."

Darcy Williamson, a freshman forward, played her "best game yet," he said. Williamson scored 19 points, second high to Sherry Brink's 20. Other UNL scoring included 12 points by Kathy Hawkins and seven by Jan Crouch.

"Darcy played good defense on top of hitting her shots as did Deb Lee (freshman forward); Nicodemus said, "Deb was decoying a lot and opening others up to score—even if she didn't score herself. She was working with Darcy and telling players where the offenses were set up—that helped our defense."

UNL shot 35 per cent from the floor compared to Tarkio's 28 per cent. Tarkio led 28-26 at halftime.

"We told the girls not to force the ball inside," Nicodemus said. "We changed the offense to 1-3-1 and they hit a few shots. That gave them the confidence they needed."

Tarkio players Deb Kahler and Mary Jo Collins played on Nicodemus's championship John F. Kennedy College team last year. Kahler was a first team all-American.

"When you're playing against a team with Kahler and Collins I get nervous," Nicodemus said.

"Kahler was the leading scorer at the NCAA national tournament in Amarillo (Texas) last year—as a freshman," he said. "Collins didn't start for me because she was playing behind another All-American." Kahler led Tarkio with 19 points.

In other action this weekend, UNL defeated Creighton 57-31 Friday. Brink and Hawkins led the Huskers with 14 and 12 points, respectively. UNL takes a 3-1 record into its game at Midland College in Fremont Wednesday.

and professionals.

Schmidt, Mike Blankennau and brothers Mike and Richard Chess represented UNL last year. Each player could still play if Watson is added because each team can use six members to fill four playing positions.

Richard Chess and Schmidt are former Nebraska state champions. Blankennau, whose Omaha Central high school team once finished third nationally, is current state co-champion.

All five finished in the top 80 in the U.S. Open Chess championships this summer in Lincoln. Schmidt and Blankennau tied with about 15 others for 20th, while Watson was 11th.